**The Morals of Fairytales:**

1. Cinderella
   1. Yolen:
      1. Cinderella was already born into a rich family and although she wears rags and cleans floors the story is not about her going from rags to riches.
      2. The true moral of the story is stripping away of the disguise that conceals the soul from the eyes of others.
         1. The apron/rags: Symbolize her insecurity and fear of stepmother that she conforms to this image the stepmother has created.
         2. Ball gown/mask: Symbolize again her insecurity and her need to break away from the image her stepmother has put on her.
      3. This is why she breaks free from the bonds of identity enslavement in the form of a wicked stepmother.
   2. Bettelheim:
      1. The story is experienced as a story about the agonies and hopes of sibling rivalry, the wicked step sisters fighting and hurting their feet to get their foot into the glass slipper.
      2. The term living in the ashes at the time Cinderella was written was a symbol of being debased in comparison to one’s siblings.
      3. The tiny foot represents extraordinary virtue, distinction, and beauty.
      4. Cinderella finally surpasses the sisters that debased her.
      5. Children can most relate to Cinderella because of the exaggerated experiences to sibling and parent relations:
         1. She is pushed down and degraded by her siblings.
         2. Her interests are sacrificed to theirs by the step mother.
         3. She is expected to perform the lowest and dirtiest work in the household and although she does so without complaining and does it well, she receives no credit for it.
         4. She continues to give as they continue to demand more from her.
      6. Because this story corresponds to how the child feels deep down it attains to an emotional quality of truth for the child.
      7. From Cinderella’s triumph at the end of the fairytale the child gains the exaggerated hopes for their own future, which are needed to counteract the misery he experiences through sibling rivalry.
2. Little Red Riding Hood:
   1. Bettelheim:
      1. Both the house in the woods and the parental home are the same place, experienced quite differently because of change in the s=psychological situation.
         1. At home Little Red Riding Hood is protected by her parents.
         2. At her Grandmother’s Little Red Riding Hood is incapacitated by the consequences of her encounter with the wolf.
      2. The Wolf doesn’t do anything that does not come naturally, meaning it devours people to feed itself as expected.
      3. To Little Red Riding Hood the world beyond the parental home is not a threatening wilderness through which the child cannot find a path.
      4. When Little Red Riding Hood asks the Grandmother about her big ears, eyes, hands, and mouth these represent the four senses: hearing, seeing ,touching, and tasting which the child uses to understand the world/the wolf.
      5. The male is split into two forms the wolf and the hunter
         1. The wolf represents the dangerous seducer who, if given in to, turns into the destroyer of the good grandmother and the girl
         2. The hunter represents the responsible, strong, and rescuing father figure.
      6. Little Red Riding Hood is a universally accepted story because although she is virtuous she is also tempted. Because her fate tells us that trusting everybody’s good intentions is really leading oneself into pitfalls.
3. Jack and the Beanstalk
   1. Bettelheim:
      1. The stages of Jack’s journey represent the stages of moral development for a child
         1. On the first trip Jack steals the gold, but returns a second day knowing full well the dangers he is placing himself in.
         2. On his second trip he takes the hen that lays golden eggs, which teaches him about how if one runs out of things if one cannot reproduce them. With this golden hen he doesn’t need to climb back up the beanstalk, but he does because of his need for adventures.
         3. Jack takes the golden harp, which symbolizes beauty, art, and all things higher in life.
      2. Jacks belief in magic represents our own belief in magic can help in daring to meet the world on our own, we must take the initiative and be willing to run the risks involved in mastering life
      3. Magic is the push and drive to which we can find ourselves and our goals.